Aungban-Pinlaung-Loikaw-Mae-sei Road will be upgraded to tarred one, but [not] any plan yet to build Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) for the time being

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March-At today's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U Ye Htut Tin from Pasawng Constituency asked if there are plans to resume the upgrading of Aungban- Loikaw-Mae-sei Road for swift commodity flow, and to construct Thanlwin River Bridge (Mae-sei) on Aungban-Loikaw-Mae-sei Road, and said that he wondered when the projects will begin if there are.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint in his reply said that the government is taking measures in various sectors for development of Regions and States including far-flung areas. The Ministry of Construction constructs new roads and bridges and upgrades and maintains old ones in Kayah State yearly.

Aungban-Pinlaung- Loikaw-Mae-sei Road, 212 miles and six furlongs long artery, is made up of two sections: 84 miles and six furlongs long section at Shan State (South) and 128 miles long section at Kayah State. Aungban-Loikaw- Mae-sei Road consisting of five sections goes through seven townships in Kayah State. Taunggyi District is upgrading and maintaining the 84 miles and six furlongs long Aunban- Pinlaung-Warikawkhu (Kayah State border) section in Shan State (South).

In 2010-2011 fiscal year, the ministry resurfaced the section for three miles and upgraded it for 12 miles and built culverts and small bridges along it.

The section in Kayah State stretching from Warikawkhu and Nanman through Loikaw and Pasawng is linked with the border trade route. The 89 miles and four furlongs long Loikaw-Bawlakhe- Pasawng part is a tarred one, and the 35 miles and four furlongs long Pasawng- Mae-sei-Nanman part, a gravel one. So, the three mile part is yet to be upgraded to a gravel one.

In Kayah State in 2010- 2011 fiscal year, 24 miles section was upgraded, three 15-foot bridges were built, and 2 miles and 2 furlongs long part was rebuilt.

Pasawng-Meisenan-Maesei-anman section, part of the border trade route, will be upgraded to a fine one.

The ministry also built six above-180-foot bridges apart from 306-foot Kandarawady Bridge in Loikaw. In addition, 240- foot Hteesekah Bridge was opened on 29 June 2009, and 228-foot Htoo Creek Bridge, on 9 March 2011.

It constructed Thanlwin River-spanning bridges: Tarpar Bridge (600 feet), Kunlon Bridge (789 feet), and Tarkaw-et Bridge (600 feet) in Shan State (North), Tarkaw Bridge (780 feet) and Tarhsan Bridge (900 feet) in Shan State (South), Hpa-an Bridge (2252 feet) in Kayin State, and Mawlamyine Bridge (11575 feet) in Mon State.

The Thanlwin River is about 1,800 feet wide in Pasawng, and a Z-craft makes eight runs a day. So, there is not any plan yet to build Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) at present. But, if the route copes with grater traffic, a proposal may be submitted to the government for putting the dream into reality.

In Kayah State, 237 miles of roads have been upgraded to tarred ones; 43 miles and five furlongs, to gravel ones and 115 miles and five furlongs, to gravel ones, and 124 miles and three furlongs, to laterite ones, totaling 520 miles and five furlongs, and 371 bridges were built.

In conclusion, the minister said that Aungban- Pinlaung-Loikaw-Mae-sei Road will be upgraded annually to a tarred one, but there is not any plan yet to build Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) for the time being.

Source: NLM 2011-03-29